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Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling growth, inhibition of growth, activation or inactivation of a microorganism, comprising:

providing a ceramic having an N-surface and a P-surface that were formed by treating the ceramic by polarization; and

adsorbing on at least one of the N-surface and P-surface a microorganism[[:]] ~~and contacting the adsorbed microorganism with one or more agents selected from growth promoting agents, growth inhibiting agents, activating agents and deactivating agents.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic is a material or a combination of materials selected from hydroxyapatite ceramics, barium titanate ceramics, strontium hydroxyapatite ceramics, hydroxyapatite ceramics containing calcium or strontium as solid solutions, lithium niobate ceramics, sodium niobate ceramics, potassium niobate ceramics, glasses and crystallized glasses which contain calcium phosphate, stabilized and partially stabilized zirconia ceramics, ion conductive alumina (so-called β -alumina) ceramics, and piezoelectric ceramics containing lead.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic is in the form of a powder, fiber, bulk or a coating film.

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